R-NRS
REPORTS
Station's Annual

January 26, 1945

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE STATION

THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

General

Prior to the time this Nation became actively involved in the war and the need for greatly increased amounts of forest and range products became not only urgent but critical, most of the private and a lot of the public resource managers felt that sufficient research knowledge was available to meet their everyday needs and problems. Where problems did not arise or where such problems were ignored, the need for additional research, though recognized, was not considered of high enough priority to warrant increased activity in this field. This being the attitude of a majority of the resource exploiters and managers, it was too much to expect that the less informed general public at large would be any more concerned about an adequate program of research. Consequently in the war, as in times of depression, the importance of research was minimized and appropriations materially reduced.

It might be agreed that research had in most cases sufficient knowledge of the fundamental principles of forest and range management and utilization to answer the simple problems and questions that did arise. Research in some fields has been considered as being ahead of the action program. Such a condition should be judged a lack of interest and foresight on the part of the resource manager rather than a feather in the cap of the researcher. Researchers know that though they have contributed much toward the solution of the most vexing problems in certain fields and have added to the store of useful knowledge, they still have a long way to go.

The war, however, quickly changed the picture. New situations bringing up new and vexing problems arose almost overnight. The resource manager, up against some particular problem for which he didn't have the answer, turned to research for advice and guidance. It is to the credit of research that in many cases they could supply the answers from their store of accumulated knowledge based on long-time fundamental research. It is to their discredit and that of the resource manager that this knowledge had not already been put into practical use. In too many cases, however, research did not have the answer and did not now have either the personnel or funds to attack the problem. Some of the answers could not have been obtained immediately, even if ample funds and manpower were available, and this brought out forcefully the need for a well-planned, adequately financed, long-time program of research.

The impacts of war have brought more clearly into focus the outstanding research needs of the region and have more definitely defined the order

of their importance. A lack of basic knowledge and principles in several fields and the need for usable handbooks of instructions on methods and techniques were also found in planning the program or shelf of work for the reconstruction period after the war. There follows a brief discussion of what the problems and needs are, what we have been able to do about them, and what we plan to do in the future.

Silvicultural Research

This station probably has as much fundamental knowledge on the management of forests in the white pine type as is available for any other one type, except perhaps ponderosa pine. This should not be taken to mean that we know all we need to know about white pine silviculture. It does mean, however, that we have concentrated our efforts in this one particular type. The station has not conducted method-of-cutting studies in any other of the commercial timber types within the region. Some permanent growth and yield sample plots have been established in the ponderosa pine type and preliminary measurements have been made. Methods of stand improvement have also been studied in this type. Some work has been done in planting and in direct seeding for most of the important species. In general, this is the extent of the work that has been done in silvicultural research. Though we have the research results of silvicultural studies of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce from other regions, application studies have not been made to check these results against northern Rocky Mountain conditions. We do not therefore have sufficient reliable information to recommend the proper silvicultural practices for sawlog and other special forest products cutting in the other forest types of the region.

Due to war demands, there has been an increase in the cutting in mixed stands and of mixed species. The sale of national forest timber has increased some 160 percent since the war started, and most of the increase has been in forest types other than white pine. Due also to a shortage of raw material supplies and of certain special forest products in other regions, there has been and will continue to be a considerable movement of operators into this territory. An increasing amount of pulpwood is being cut from our larch-fir, spruce-fir, and lodgepole pine stands and shipped into the Lake States. A 100-ton pulp and paper company is now being organized to operate in western Montana. Inquiries are being received as to the possibilities for large pulpwood operations in the lodgepole pine stands of the national forests in eastern Montana. Cedar poles are becoming scarce, and many western Montana forest supervisors have received inquiries as to the extent and amount of telephone pole-sized trees in the lodgepole pine stands. All this increased activity means that sooner or later we are going to be called upon to recommend the proper cutting practices for these special products. Before the final cooperative sustained-yield agreement with the J. Neils Lumber Company at Libby, Montana, can be consummated, considerable information on the growth and yield in ponderosa pine and larch-fir stands will have to be made available. Research should also aid in developing the forest management practices that will sustain the cut in the unit. Work of this type will increase as other sustained-yield agreements come up for consideration and approval. The Regional Office of Timber Management will be called upon to make the final plans, but research

should be in position to give sound technical advice and guidance. I would rate the methods of cutting and growth and yield studies in the ponderosa pine, larch-Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine types as of first priority.

The problem of white pine blister rust and its control is still a critical one. The adequacy of the present method of control is being questioned. Studies in cooperation with research technicians of the Blister Rust Control office and the Regional Office of Timber Management to determine the proper management methods to be employed in white pine stands as an aid in the control of blister rust are urgent and necessary. Some work has been done on this problem by K. P. Davis and C. A. Wellner of the station in cooperation with V. Moss of the Office of Blister Rust Control. Attack on this problem is rated second only in importance to the methods of cutting and growth and yield studies in our ponderosa pine and mixed species stands. The region will assign one of its top practicing forest managers to this problem in the near future. The station should be in a position to cooperate with him. C. A. Wellner, now on military furlough with the Navy, and A. E. Helmers of our present organization are good possibilities for this assignment.

Considerable stand improvement work during the post-war reconstruction period is being planned by the administrative branch. The station has considerable information on weeding, thinning, and pruning in the white pine and ponderosa pine types. Some of the principles and techniques established are applicable to other types in this region. This knowledge should be checked, revised where possible, and compiled into a handbook on timber stand improvements for use of the administrative branch in its action program. While not of the highest order of importance, this is one job that can probably be done by the one-man silvicultural force during 1945.

The above discussion will give you a general idea of what information on silviculture we have available, where we are short, and what studies are most urgently needed. The station's annual report will give you the accomplishments of last year and plans for 1945 with our one-man staff. We have been considerably handicapped by not having available here a qualified, long experienced silviculturist who could have, on the basis of his past experience and training and with access to our really large fund of basic data, provided sound technical advice in many instances. I have tried personally to meet most of the requests. I am not, however, a trained silviculturist and my time is limited. It was necessary, however, for me to take charge of the regional-station committee appointed to revise the rules of cutting practices on private lands and to furnish most of the basic information and prepare the rules. Paul Kemp of the Forest Survey has been particularly helpful in providing administration and private operators with growth rates and yield data.

You have Regional Forester Hanson's offer to finance a top silviculturist for a period up to 2 years or until the station is financially able to take over. You have my comments on this proposal. Needless to say, every attempt will be made at this end to build up backing for a substantial increase in forest management funds for the next (1947) fiscal year.

Forest Products and Utilization Research

On January 1, 1944 there was estimated to be 81 billion board feet log scale of sawlog volume in the nonreserved commercial saw-timber stands in the northern Rocky Mountain region. Of this amount 55 billion feet are of the so-called little-used species - western larch, Douglas-fir, true firs, hemlock, Engelmann spruce, western redcedar, cottonwood, and aspen. Commercial saw-timber stands of white pine and ponderosa pine contain only 9 billion and 17 billion board feet, respectively, of sawlog volume. In addition to the sawlog stands there are some 6 million cedar poles and considerable numbers of tie and pole-sized trees in the younger larch-fir and lodgepole pine stands. Included in the above totals are some 4,020,000,000 cubic feet of preferred pulpwood species such as Engelmann spruce, hemlock, balsam firs, and black cottonwood.

Sawlogs are the principal product cut, and they average annually 1,030 million feet out of a total drain of 1,213 million feet from sawlog stands. White pine and ponderosa pine are the principal species cut, and they now compose 64 percent of the total sawlog production. Prior to the war this percentage was around 80 percent. Boards, sawed mine and tie timbers, lath and shingles are the major products manufactured within the region. During the war a considerable quantity of lumber was shipped out of the state in a rough green condition. Ordinarily, however, lumber goes out of the state seasoned and surfaced and ready for the building or remanufacturing trade. The region has very few remanufacturing or secondary wood-using plants. While there are on the average some 405 mills actively operating each year within the region, there are only 14 box and crate factories, 8 sash and door plants, 14 general millwork concerns, 48 secondary wood-using factories (wood novelties and implements, boats, kitchen cabinets, etc.) and 7 match block plants. These include all of the secondary wood-using or remanufacturing industries and most of them are exceedingly small local establishments. Sixty percent of these plants are in or adjacent to Spokane, Washington. Practically all of the forest products produced within the region are used either in the original form as poles or piling, round mine timbers, ties or posts or in the first stages of manufacture as boards and dimension lumber.

As noted above, the region still has a considerable uncut reserve of raw material supplies in its now merchantable saw-timber stands. Fortunately, these little-used species now have excellent possibilities for special wood use. There is a good supply of preferred pulp species that can be sustained. Tests have shown that the western larch and ponderosa pine in this region are capable of producing good quality veneer and plywood. Other species have good chemical conversion possibilities. Despite the large store of raw material for such uses there are no pulpwood plants, no veneer and plywood factories, and no wood chemical plants. There is one pulp and paper plant in the northeastern Washington unit near Spokane.

On the other hand, primary sawmill capacity in the region is excessive and concentrated in a few large companies. The preferred lumber species - white and ponderosa pine - cannot be sustained at their present cut level and

most of the operating companies are on a liquidating basis. Since the present sawmilling cut and sawmill capacity are greatly in excess of the sustained-yield capacity of the forest land, the first step necessary to a sound forest economy following the war is to balance cut with the growth rate of the region's forests. In working out such a plan the establishment of additional secondary wood-using and remanufacturing plants and of new industries using more of the new little-used species or wood waste will go a long ways toward offsetting the shock of the reduced production and help to stabilize local forest communities.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Division of Forest Products has, during its many years of existence, accumulated a large store of valuable information on the forest products and on forest utilization practices and standards within the region. Its file of information on the amount of forest products produced, the cost of production and the selling value of the products is up to date and reliable. Its knowledge of current practices and its close contact with the lumber industry are some of the main reasons why the Products Supplies Surveys program is being carried on in this region through contributed time and at so little additional expense.

In addition to the really respectable fund of information on forest products, the station has in its Forest Survey project files very detailed, reliable and usable data on the forest resources within the major timber-producing areas of the region. This combination of basic information furnishes the necessary background of material upon which to build one of the new Products Units. The station in its present products division does not have the "experts" that are needed to carry on the activities of such a unit, however.

This brings me to what I consider the second most important research need of the region - the establishment of a well-financed and staffed Regional Forest Utilization Unit. It is my belief that the time to initiate such a program of work is when there are sufficient raw material supplies left to make such a program economically feasible and before the timber resource is so badly depleted that there is no longer any chance of building up a permanent, integrated, and stabilized forest industry. An all-out attempt will be made to secure backing for such a unit.

Accomplishments by the 2-man Forest Products staff at this station during the past year and their plans for 1945 are covered in detail in the main section of the annual report. The division will have considerable work to do on the reappraisal of the forest situation project during 1945.

Range Investigations

It is the opinion of Forest Service officials that the National Forest ranges in this administrative region are in relatively better condition than they are in most of the other western range regions. This does not mean, however, that there are no critical areas, no critical problems, or that the ranges are producing maximum forage crops of the best and most palatable species. A more favorable climate and a more aggressive and far-seeing administration of the range resources are probably the main reasons for this relatively good showing. Research has undoubtedly been of considerable assistance as well.

The range research unit at this station is one of the newer divisions, having been organized when all of the research activities were brought under one head in 1930. A considerable program of administrative studies had been carried on in the region for many years previously and these field studies undoubtedly contributed much usable information to range resource management. The range division at this station has, during the past 14 years of its existence, concentrated its efforts in grazing management studies in the Northern Great Plains or short-grass range type and in artificial range revegetation experiments over the entire region. Some grazing management studies were undertaken in the high summer range type but the work there was never adequately financed and though the results obtained were both important and usable, the program there has now been dropped for the duration or until it can be adequately financed.

When range research work was first initiated at this station the short-grass range type of the Northern Great Plains was considered the critical problem area. This may still be true for its ranges still produce the bulk of the region's livestock. Spring-fall and the high summer ranges are, however, important integral parts of the range livestock economy in this region and a thorough investigation of the management problems in these ranges is necessary. The high summer ranges are predominantly Forest Service and a full program of research here is necessary if we are to redeem our first responsibility, i.e., the proper protection and management of our own National Forest ranges.

Last September, representatives of the Regional Office of Range Management, range resource managers from the forests, and the experiment station range technicians met with your representative, W. R. Chapline, to explore the possibilities for better coordination between Research and Administration in meeting the Chief's objective of getting on top of the range problem on national forests. As part of this coordination effort, the administrative representative suggested some 70 problems on which further information suitable for practical application in this region would be desirable. A copy of this list, together with the comments made at the conference, is on file in your office. Close scrutiny of this list will reveal that some information is available from research at this or other of the range stations for a good number of the problems raised. It will also show that some of the studies suggested are administrative in character and might be

more logically done by the administrative force. The list does emphasize the need, however, for a greatly expanded program of research in all of the range types and in many of the various phases of range research. It further emphasizes the need for more fundamental research, particularly in range soils and their management. The list of problems suggested for study by the conference, grouped together as they have been by Chapline, appears to me to be an adequate program for research in this region.

The main body of the annual report lists the accomplishments obtained during 1944 by the Division of Range Research and discusses the plans for 1945. If the $2,000,000 proposed for an action program in range reseeding is appropriated, this station, of course, will need its proportionate share of the $500,000 for research in this field. It is believed that there is sufficient information on the methods and techniques of range reseeding available at this station to enable an action program to get underway immediately the money is appropriated. Plans for 1945 call for a revision of the old instructions and guides for reseeding and their incorporation into a new handbook.

Hurtt's familiarity with the over-all picture of the livestock industry in this region, together with his knowledge of the range resources and the range problems, has made it possible for his division to provide the livestock operator with much sound and timely advice and guidance.

Fire Research

Inasmuch as this station transmitted to you, with its letter of December 13, 1944, a preliminary though comprehensive program of fire research for this region for your consideration, no further discussion of a program is necessary here.

The accomplishments during 1944 of this station's 2-man staff on fire research and the plans for 1945 are discussed in detail in the mimeographed section of the annual report. Loss of Lyman to the administrative force early in 1945 will cut the fire research staff down to 1 man, its chief - Gisborne. With only 1 man available at this station in this important field of forest research, it is fortunate that that one man is Gisborne. His many years of experience in this one field of research, together with his personal knowledge of the principles of fire behavior and the fundamentals of fire control, have made it possible for his division to answer most of the region's requests for urgently needed information and to provide sound technical advice and guidance. The division, through Gisborne, has managed to keep fairly well abreast of the demands so far, but a greatly expanded attack on the problems of fire behavior and fire control is now overdue.

Forest Economics Research

The Forest Survey data collected and compiled from the original inventory of the forest resources in North Idaho, northeastern Washington, and western Montana have proved to be astonishingly accurate for even relatively small unit areas and exceedingly useful in the detail and form in which they were made available. The relatively large scale maps prepared have been used to advantage and have had wide distribution. The forest statistics obtained were released as soon as the field data were compiled and checked and are widely used. The information obtained on growth, drain, and requirements is proving very useful. The original field inventory was completed in the North Idaho unit in 1935, for northeastern Washington in 1935, and for western Montana in 1941. Three counties were inventoried in eastern Montana in 1941 and 1942 with the aid of WPA funds.

It is unfortunate that the 1945 reappraisal of the forest situation came before field resurveys could be made in the first counties covered some 10 years ago. Allotments to the Forest Survey project were cut from $30,000 to $11,000 almost as soon as the field survey was completed in western Montana, so only one of the counties (Benewah in North Idaho) has been resurveyed. Cutting drain figures by acreage, forest type, and species and fire and other losses have been collected regularly so that fairly accurate adjustments can be made of the forest acreage and stand figures on a county, state, and regional basis for the 1945 reappraisal.

As soon as sufficient funds can be made available under the new Forest Survey bill, field resurveys, recompilation and revision of the basic maps and statistical data for the North Idaho and northeastern Washington units will be initiated. This work should be gotten under way as soon as possible as the forest inventory data, particularly for lands outside the national forests, are used extensively in the preliminary planning work in connection with the new sustained-yield bill (Public Law 273). In fact, the Forest Survey information on young stands and on cut-over areas and the growth rates in such stands are in many cases the only information available. It is important that this information be kept up to date. The station will also wish to complete the forest survey in eastern Montana as rapidly as possible. Though eastern Montana forests are not so important from the commercial timber-producing standpoint, there are some 11 million acres of forest land in the unit and a complete picture of the forest resources and situation in the State of Montana will not be available until the entire state is covered by the Forest Survey.

The "1945 reappraisal plan" in its Item No. 11, "other reappraisal criteria" clearly brings out the need for additional studies in the field of forest economics research in this region. We know very little about the financial aspects of private timber growing in this region. We should have accurate information on the lumber industry's capital investment in manufacturing plants, logging equipment, and stumpage. We should know more about their financial and organizational structure and something of their problems and plans. The station's Forest Products Division and the region's Office of Timber Management have collected, incidental to their other work, some of the information needed. In other regions this may be a job for the

Division of State and Private Forestry, but with only one man in that office in this region the work will have to be done elsewhere.

There is another field for study needing attention at this particular time. The problem, that of the future and welfare of the small forest community as raised by the new sustained-yield law, is analyzed by Dr. H. B. English in Part II of his report on Human Relation Problems. The region here in working out the J. Neils cooperative sustained-yield agreement is already up against the problem. Professor Brownell, Director of the Rockefeller-financed Montana Study Committee, now located at the State University here in Missoula, has suggested that the Forest Service undertake the study of a small forest community and has submitted a project work plan for such a study. I have told Director Brownell that the station did not now have the personnel or funds to undertake such a study at this time. Regional Forester Hanson had not yet committed himself, but some sort of study of the forest communities in the Libby unit will have to be made.

You will note in the mimeographed section of the annual report that the Forest Survey Division has a number of jobs lined up to do in 1945 in addition to the reappraisal job. Inasmuch as the division will be responsible for doing Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the plan, the 2-man staff will be extremely busy up to the September 1 deadline. The reappraisal project has top priority here, however, and work is already under way on Section 1.

Forest Influences

No regular funds have ever been allotted to this station for research in forest influences. Some funds were allotted under the Flood Control Act of 1938, and preliminary examinations were made of the Spokane River, the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, and the St. Regis River drainages. No detailed surveys were approved. Snow course measurements have been made each year and the streamflow from a small forested drainage on the Priest River Experimental Forest has been measured and recorded daily for the past several years.

There are no large year-in, year-out critical flood control damage areas in the region. Of the drainages examined under the Flood Control Act of 1938, none could qualify for detailed survey examination and action program. Erosion over the region as a whole, though it may be critical in small areas, can be classed as moderate in comparison with that which takes place in regions to the south. The headwaters of the Missouri, the Yellowstone, and the upper Columbia Rivers are all within the region making the water conservation and use problem an important one. Western crop agriculture is almost entirely dependent upon an adequate and stabilized supply of usable water. As watershed managers we should know something about the relation of tree, brush, and grass cover in controlling runoff in this region. We should know also, for example, (1) what density of tree, brush, and grass cover will provide the best watershed protection; (2) how to build up and manage the cover to maintain the required density and composition; (3) the degree of range and

forest use allowable from an erosion and runoff standpoint; and (4) how to deliver where and when needed the maximum amount of usable water. Preliminary to a concentrated attack on such problems, we need first to conduct surveys to determine the water resources of the region and its water requirements. An erosion survey should also be made so that we know the location and extent of the problem areas.

Table 1. - WFM Finances

Financial project or work fund	Allotment (1) F.Y. 1944	F.Y. 1945
Forest Management	$18,725	$18,600
Range Investigations	31,366	32,900
Forest Products	11,983	11,100
Forest Survey	11,803	11,000
Total Regular	73,907	74,400
Products Supplies Surveys	3,840	1,200 2/
Special Fire	6,550	4,500
Emergency Rubber (Kok-saghyz)	2,350	-
Region 1 - Improvements - Maintenance	499	? 3/
Total Emergency	11,689	5,700
Grand Total	85,596	80,100

1/ Estimate. Budget calls for an allotment of $300 of WFM funds each quarter.
2/ The region may make some funds available to the station for improvement and maintenance work at field headquarters later on in the year.

FINANCING

The allotment of regular research funds to this station for F.Y. 1945 was practically the same in total as it was in F.Y. 1944 or $74,400 as compared to $73,907 (see table 1). The inclusion of overtime pay obligations with the original allotment of funds at the start of the fiscal year greatly facilitated the budgeting and use of the funds. Within the allotment there were decreases in the Forest Management and Forest Survey items and an increase for Range Investigation. The differences, however, were relatively small and did not influence the program of work materially in either way.

Station overhead was budgeted at $10,725 or 14.4 percent of the total research allotment, thus allowing for the direct expenditure of $63,675 (85.6 percent) of the funds on project work.

In addition to the regular research appropriation, the allotment of special funds for emergency projects in F.Y. 1945 to date has totaled $5,700. This is in comparison with a F.Y. 1944 allotment for such work, of $11,700. The decrease in funds allotted is due to the discontinuance of certain emergency projects such as the "Russian dandelion for rubber" experiments and to placing other of the programs on a more routine and stable basis. The Products Supplies Surveys program is accomplished in this region through the contributed time of forest officers both at the station and in the regional organization. Once the program had been stabilized and the number of special surveys called for unexpectedly kept to a minimum, it was found that the work could be done with about one-third of the funds originally budgeted. Additional funds would be needed, however, if special region-wide field surveys were unexpectedly called for.

Table 1. - NFM Finances

Financial project or Work fund	Allotment ($)	
	F.Y. 1944	F.Y. 1945
Forest Management	$18,735	$18,600
Range Investigations	31,586	32,900
Forest Products	11,903	11,900
Forest Survey	11,683	11,000
Total Regular	73,907	74,400
Products Supplies Surveys	3,240	1,200 1/
Special Fire	5,580	4,500
Emergency Rubber (Kok-saghyz)	2,350	-
Region 1 - Improvements - Maintenance	499	? 2/
Total Emergency	11,669	5,700
Grand Total	85,576	80,100

1/ Estimate. Budget calls for an allotment of $300 of NPS funds each quarter.
2/ The region may make some funds available to the station for improvement and maintenance work at field headquarters later on in the year.

ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

The present unavailability of qualified research personnel has been more of a problem during the past year than has the lack of funds. During 1944 the station lost four of its regular personnel - two by resignation, one by transfer, and one to the military services (see table 2). It was unfortunate that three of the four losses were from the Division of Range Research. Every possibility for replacement was thoroughly investigated, and it was almost the end of the year before even one of the range vacancies could be filled. We were more fortunate in replacing John Crowe, the Priest River superintendent who resigned unexpectedly in December, without loss of time although the replacement is temporary. The region loaned us the use of one of its top foremen, L. H. Whetsler, until spring when a new superintendent will have to be found, if the Priest River station is to remain open. It should not be as difficult, however, to find a superintendent as it is to obtain qualified research personnel. Actually we have almost as many employees - 23 as compared to 24 - on January 1, 1945, as we had on the same date a year ago, but replacements have been in C.P.S. Selectees and the loss was mainly in qualified research personnel. The total number of regular personnel at the station at present is only about one-third of what it was in 1941, however, and this major decrease is due largely to the drastic reduction in regular appropriations which Research has suffered during the war emergency.

It is believed that the manpower situation will improve. An increasing number of veterans are returning, and some of these have had some forestry experience. The best qualified and most experienced men, however, will not be available for a year or so yet. The C.P.S. Selectees here are available to us only between late September and early May when they are not on fire control (smoke-jumping) assignments, and thus can give us only a limited amount of field assistant help. They have given us good service as caretakers in the past and are being used on compilation work this winter.

Twelve of our regular personnel (see table 3) are in military service. Six of them are now overseas and four others are expecting A.P.O numbers momentarily. In addition to the above twelve Forest Service financed men and women in the armed services, Forrest S. Romero, forest biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service assigned to this station, has been in the Army since July 1943. Table 3 shows that $25,180 (as of July 1, 1945) would be needed annually to meet the salary obligations of the twelve veterans if they all returned to their former positions with us. It is believed that a majority of the twelve will wish to return to work with the Forest Service.

Table 2. - Station Organization

	As of January 1, 1944				As of January 1, 1945		
	Name	Title	Grade		Name	Title	Grade
	Overhead Administration						
	M. Bradner	Director	P-6		M Bradner	Director	P-6
	Dagmar Nelson	Clerk	CAF-5		Dagmar Nelson	Clerk	CAF-5
	Division of Forest Management						
	H.T. Gisborne	Silviculturist	P-5		H.T. Gisborne	Silviculturist	P-5
	C.K. Lyman	Silviculturist	P-3		C.K. Lyman	Silviculturist	P-3
	A.E. Helmers	Silviculturist	P-1		A.E. Helmers	Silviculturist	P-2
1/	J.D. Crowe	Agric. Aid	SP-5	4/	L.H. Whetsler	Jr. Adm. Asst.	CAF-7
	Vandella Johnson	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3		Vandella Johnson	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3
4/	E.J. Grambo	Agric. Aid	SP-7	°	D.P. Flaccus	C.P.S. Selectee	-
°	D.P. Flaccus	C.P.S. Selectee	-	°	R. Phibbs	C.P.S. Selectee	-
°	B. Hammarstrom	C.P.S. Selectee	-	°	K.E. Spangler	C.P.S. Selectee	-
	Division of Range Management						
	L.C. Hurtt	Range Examiner	P-5		L. C. Hurtt	Range Examiner	P-5
	E.J. Woolfolk	Forest Ecologist	P-3		E. J. Woolfolk	Forest Ecologist	P-3
2/	C.E. Holscher	Range Examiner	P-2				
	C.A. Friedrich	Range Examiner	P-2		C. A. Friedrich	Range Examiner	P-2
3/	G.A. Harris	Range Examiner	P-1		R. A. Peterson	Range Examiner	P-2
	M.J. Reed	Plant Physiologist	P-1		M. J. Reed	Plant Physiologist	P-1
1/	C.G. Pool	Range Examiner	P-1	°	L. C. Hulbert	C.P.S. Selectee	-
	Henrietta Flood	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3		Henrietta Flood	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3
	Division of Forest Products						
	C.N. Whitney	Forester	P-3		C. N. Whitney	Forester	P-3
	J.L. Timm	Forester	P-1		J. L. Timm	Forester	P-1
°	Jean Newquist	Clerk-steno.	CAF-2	°	Esther Knuchel	Clerk-typist	CAF-2
	Division of Forest Survey						
	P.D. Kemp	Forest Economist	P-3		P.D. Kemp	Forest Economist	P-3
	L.W. Zach	Forester	P-1		L.W. Zach	Forester	P-2
	Catherine Mead	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3		Catherine Mead	Clerk-steno.	CAF-3
	20 Regular Employees 4 Temporary Employees				17 Regular Employees 6 Temporary Employees		

1/ Assigned to state private industry
2/ Transferred to Washington office for Research
3/ Entered the Navy.
4/ On detail from Region.
° Temporaries.

Table 3. - Salaries needed for employees on military furlough
(Including Mead-Ramspeck promotions)
as of July 1, 1945

Name	Division	Salary	Date of last promotion
Clarence W. Brown	Survey	$ 1,800	October 1, 1944
Vern L. Cline	For. Man.	1,380	January 1, 1945
Robert L. Conn	Survey	1,380	April 1, 1944
Helen B. Davis	Overhead	1,800	October 1, 1944
Anthony B. Evanko	Range	1,680	April 1, 1944
Grant A. Harris	Range	2,200	July 1, 1944
Gordon D. Merrick	Range	3,400	October 1, 1941 (last eff. rating "Fair")
Melvin E. Metcalf	Survey	1,740	October 1, 1944
Bert L. Naiman	For. Man.	1,560	October 1, 1944
Mary J. Perchina	Overhead	3,100	October 1, 1944
Henry J. Pissot	Survey	1,740	October 1, 1944
Charles A. Wellner	For. Man.	3,400	April 1, 1945
Total Cost		$25,180	

It would be possible if military manpower needs became extremely urgent or critical for this station to lose to the armed services, or under a "work or fight" order to war industries, 8 out of the 13 technical employees now in the organization. This would leave only the director and the four division or acting division chiefs. Table 4 shows the present Selective Service status of the men at this station now under 38 years of age. Paul Kemp was under 45 years of age when he registered for the first draft. He is now over 45 years of age and is classified as IV-A, and it is not likely that he will ever be called. E. J. Woolfolk will not be 38 until April of this year; and if the present critical situation continues to develop, he might be called up. Woolfolk is the only one of this station's employees who was granted deferment on the basis of occupying a key position.

None of the men at the station are in the 18- to 25-year age group; three are in the 26- to 29-year age group; and five are in the 30- to 38-year age group. All of the three in the 26- to 29-year age group were originally classified as 4-F and are now deferred as II-A-F's. One of them, Merton Reed, has recently been informed that his deferment period had been shortened from June 13 to May 9, 1945. Lyman and Zach in the 30- to 38-year age group are at present (January 20, 1945) deferred under the policy in effect that men over 30 in essential work would not be called up. C. A. Friedrich, who was also in this category, was placed in 1-A on January 19, 1945 by the Appeal Board after having had his deferment extended for another six months by his local board. A letter recommending appeal was sent your office on January 23. R. A. Peterson, who joined the Range Research Division early in January, will shortly be classified by his local board. It is entirely possible that he will be placed in 1-A.

In view of the change in the military situation since last December and Director L. B. Hershey's Local Board Memorandum No. 115-I as issued January 4, 1945, it is urged that the Forest Service revise, as soon as possible, its retirement policy to meet the new demands. We will need to know what the deferment policy is to be so that we can inform the men involved correctly and at the earliest time just what is in store for them. This is important!

Table 4. - Selective Service status of regular personnel

Name	Grade	Age on nearest birthday	Present Selective Service classification	Expiration date of present deferment	Remarks
Paul D. Kemp	P-3	47 on Feb. 26, 1945	IV-A	No deferment required	
E. J. Woolfolk	P-3	38 on April 10, 1945	II-A	June 13, 1945	
C. K. Lyman	P-3	33 on Oct. 6, 1944	II-A	June 6, 1945	
C. A. Friedrich	P-2	32 on April 4, 1945	I-A	Jan. 19, 1945	1/
L. W. Zach	P-2	31 on Dec. 6, 1944	II-A	May 14, 1945	
M. J. Reed	P-1	29 on June 12, 1945	II-A-F	May 9, 1945	Shortened from June 13, 1945 2/
A. E. Helmers	P-2	28 on Aug. 30, 1944	II-A-F	May 7, 1945	2/
J. L. Timm	P-1	28 on July 1, 1945	II-A	June 6, 1945	
R. A. Peterson	P-2	32 on March 31, 1945	?		3/

1/ Deferment extended by local board (December 12, 1944 notice to registrant) to June 6, 1945; then on January 19, 1945 voted 3 to 1 to be classified as I-A.

2/ These men are in IV-F. Under Forest Service policy have been given II-A-F deferments by local boards to show employment on essential work.

3/ Has honorable discharge from Enlisted Reserve Army Air Corp. Is now awaiting Selective Service classification.

STATUS OF EXPERIMENTAL FOREST AND RANGES

Due mainly to the loss of Grant Harris to the Navy, it was decided, and approved by Mr. Chapline, to close down the Vigilante Experimental Range Station at the end of the 1944 field season for the duration or until adequate funds and personnel were available to conduct a research program effectively. After Harris left in July, a nontechnical, temporary field assistant was kept on in the hopes of completing the current plot measurements and doing the other jobs necessary until the stock went off the range. This did not prove too satisfactory a solution, so the station was closed down and much of the property transferred to Missoula at the end of the season.

Woolfolk and Reed have remained at the Miles City station this winter (1944-45) so that the projects there are now under direct station supervision for the entire year. It is expected that both Woolfolk and Reed will be called into the Missoula headquarters for short details some time during the winter.

Both the Priest River and the Deception Creek Experimental Forests were kept open and maintained at a fairly high standard during 1944. The resignation in December of John Crowe, superintendent at the Priest River station for the past 3 years, raised the question of placing this field station on a caretaker basis for at least the winter season. The loan of a top foreman by the region to the station for the winter solved the problem for the present. With funds for silviculture and fire research as short as they are at present, it might be good business to lock up this station though it gets good use as a center for field work, and the annual cost of upkeep of the physical plant would be greatly increased after a few years of nonuse. Austin Helmers makes the Deception Creek Station his headquarters for silvicultural work and plot examinations during the field season, and two C.P.S. Selectees take care of the station and obtain weather records during the winter.

The Coram, Piquette, and the old Bernice Experimental Forests have never been actively operated and there are no station headquarters improvements. These forests contain some of the most accessible and best timber stands on the national forests in which they are located, and private operators and in some cases local forest officers are putting the pressure on Research to make this timber available for war emergency use. Some cutting was authorized and has been done on the Coram Experimental Forest under an earlier but urgent request to provide timber for immediate war needs. Inasmuch as the Coram Forest is mostly virgin timber and the percentage of young age classes and cut-over areas is small, cutting in some of the old overmature stands was considered beneficial. Due to the lack of research personnel to directly supervise the actual laying out on the ground of various methods of cutting or other silvicultural practices and the measuring and recording of data, far less usable information was obtained than was contemplated or expected when the sale of timber was authorized. In view of this, new sales of timber will not be permitted on these experimental forests until the station is in position to fully plan and supervise the work on the ground.

M. Brudner

M. BRADNER, Director